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2-12 0394 ^Careful review of new CIA chief promised@<

WASHINGTON (UPI) Sen. David Boren, D-Okla., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Thursday there will be no quick vote on the nomination of Robert Gates to be CIA director.<

Boren issued a statement saying the committee intends to "fully, carefully and thoroughly consider the nomination" of Gates, a career intelligence officer who is President Reagan's choice as successor to William Casey as the nation's top spy.<

Casey, a pivotal figure in the Iran arms-Contra aid scandal, resigned Feb. 2. He underwent brain surgery for a cancerous tumor Dec. 18.<

"To the greatest extent possible, these hearings will be public so that the American people will have the opportunity to fully consider Mr. Gates' qualifications," Boren said.<

The panel's hearing is expected to last only a day next Tuesday but members of the Intelligence Committee are likely to focus on Gates' role in the Iran-Contra affair, what he knew and when he knew it.<

Two special congressional committees are investigating the secret sale of U.S. arms to Iran and the possible diversion of money from the deals to the Nicaraguan rebels.<

Boren said the committee would not move quickly on the Gates nomination and expected to wait the full 14-day period under the rules before voting on the confirmation and sending it to the Senate.<

In December, Gates, 43, the No. 2 official at the CIA since last April, told the committee that he became aware in early October last year that funds from the sale of arms may have been diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels.<

It was more than a month before that information was publicly revealed by Attorney General Edwin Meese.<

The intelligence panel, which has issued the most comprehensive report to date on the scandal, said Gates objected in late January 1986 to providing intelligence data about Iraq to the Iranians. The panel's report said he was overruled by the National Security Council.<

It is unclear from the report exactly when Gates became aware of the Iranian arms deal, but his knowledge is expected to be the focus of the panel's inquiry when it opens his confirmation hearing.<

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